

**MINUTES OF THE 52ND MEETING OF THE PROJECTS APPROVAL BOARD FOR SARVA
SHIKSHA ABHIYAN HELD ON 2ND JUNE, 2004**

The 52nd meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the Chairmanship of Smt. Kumud Bansal, Secretary, Elementary Education & Literacy on 2.6. 2004. A list of participants is given at Annexed. I.

Item No.1: Consideration of Annual Plan and Budget in respect of Orissa.

1. Welcoming the Chairperson, and other members, JS(EE-I) made the following observations on the Appraisal Note, which are as follows:-

- (i) That nowhere in the said Note there is any mention about release of funds during 2003-04,
- (ii) There is no explanation about intervention-wise progress; and also
- (iii) There is no mention about position of State share.

He pointed out that not only in Appraisal Note but even district plans should have such essential information.

With the permission of the Chair, Director (Finance) said that this year 'Appraisal Notes' are invariably being furnished very late; even at the time of Project Approval Board (PAB) meetings, as has happened in case of Orissa. He said that unless these are furnished at least 2 days prior to Board's Meetings, it would be difficult for IFD to give their considered views. Agreeing with the suggestion, Secretary (EE&L) instructed all Divisional Officers to ensure advance submission of 'Appraisal Notes' so as to enable members or their representatives sufficient time to peruse them before they attend such meetings.

2. Secretary (Mass & School Education), Government of Orissa was then requested to make a presentation on progress of SSA and proposals for SSA & DPEP for the AWP&B 2004-05. Highlights of the presentation are stated hereunder:-

- 2.1 The State Project Director (SPD), OPEPA informed that elementary education starts at the age of five, therefore, 5-13 age group children have been considered only. He said that there were 72.42 lakh children in the said age group of which 69.25 children, including 5.5 lakh in EGS were enrolled in 2003. This had happened due to massive enrolment drive, and only 3.16 children were out of school.
- 2.2 At primary stage 1,45,779 teachers were in position, which included 20,262 teachers sanctioned under SSA.
 - 2.2.1 There are still 4535 single teacher schools.
- 2.3 At primary level, Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) is 44 ½: 1 for the State. Districts namely, Balasore (58:1); Bhadrak (59:1), Cuttak (45:1), Dhenkanal (43:1), Ganjam (47:1), Jajpur (52:1) have more adverse PTR's.
 - 2.3.1 Situation at upper primary is better with the State average at 34:1, but Khurda district has an adverse PTR at 80:1.
 - 2.3.2 Drop out rate has reduced marginally from 32.36 in 2002-03 to 31.08 in 2003-04 at elementary stage.
- 2.4 While Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at primary stage during 2003-04 was 103.48, Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) was 91.23. At UP stage GER was 56.96 and NER was 38.33.
- 2.5 Improved access facilities has helped to bring down Out of School Children which, are as follows:-
 - (i) additional accommodation provided to 3.34 lakh children in about 68,000 schools,
 - (ii) additional enrolment of about 78000 children in 2298 newly approved schools were made operational to accommodate about 78,000 out of school children,
 - (iii) 79830 children were enrolled in 2661 newly sanctioned UP schools,
 - (iv) About 5.5 lakh children were enrolled in 17,000 EGS & AIE centres,
 - (v) Massive mobilization drive through 'School Chala Abhiyan',
 - (vi) As on 31.3.04, only 3.16 lakh children remain out of school.

- 2.6 For training of teacher 3 modules viz. 'Unmesh' for primary level and 'Udaya' for Upper Primary level and 'Jagruti' for Para Teachers, have been developed by the State Resource Group (SRG) of OPEPA and trialled. All teachers would be covered under the modules during 2004-05.
- 2.7 Learner's evaluation has been further streamlined through an Annual Common Examination at district level for class I-VI with the help of DIETs. The results are being analyzed.
- 2.8 A quarterly newsletter called 'Aroha' has been published & circulated on best practices.
- 2.9 On the strategies for Children with Special Needs' (CSWN), against an identified 1.2 lakh children, about 1.10 lakh have been enrolled. Aids and appliances have been purchased and distributed. 4160 teachers of 8 districts have been trained. Anganwadi workers are also being trained for this purpose.

Recently RCI has accorded permission to OPEPA to conduct 90 days Foundation Course. It is planned to train 1920 teachers during 2004-05.

- 2.10 For proper implementation of activities under NPEGEL, it has been decided to open a zonal office at Raygada for KBK districts. A girl education cell has been opened in the SPO with UNICEF's assistance. Department of Women and Child Development of State Government is actively participating in the programme now, particularly in ECCE.
- 2.11 900 schools have been identified to receive computer-aided learning on a 'Boot' model. Azim Premji Foundation has agreed to develop content materials and on 18 topics, to start with.

3. After the presentation, the Appraisal Team gave it's observations which are as follows:-

- i) In view of adverse PTR, particularly at primary stage, and also the fact that there are still 4535 'single teacher schools', the State Government should very quickly complete the teacher rationalization process.
- ii) In view of the multigrade situation prevailing in rural and tribal areas methodologies and materials to meet the contextual need to be developed.
- iii) Quite a large number of activities has been proposed to be undertaken during 2004-05 for CWSN's which will require close monitoring to ensure effective progress.
- iv) As informed during the presentation, the State Government has designed an innovative Scheme for ST girls called – Siksha Sanchay Yojana - through which it aims to provide a fixed deposit of Rs.1000 in the name of the tribal girl seeking admission in class – I. This money will be utilized later for her higher studies once she completes class – V. The State Government may examine this from the point of view of those children who may dropout before completing class – V.

4. Secretary (EE&L) suggested the following for immediate action:-

- (i) Action relating to teachers rationalization be completed very quickly this year itself.
- (ii) It should be ensured to bring all out of school children into school/learning centres under EGS & AIE with in this year itself.

- (iii) OPEPA to ensure that quality of classroom practices and learning achievements are improved.
- (iv) All activities proposed for CWSN's be completed well within time during 2004-05.
- (v) State Government should examine issue of dropout girl children before implementing Siksha Sanchay Yojana for ST girls.

5. The representative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs said that State Government should utilise at least 8 % of programme funds on the education of tribal children. DEA, Dr. D.K. Paliwal, said that though State Government has been encouraging participation of NGOs in the programme, it is to be ensured that funds are released to them in a timely manner and their activities closely monitored.

6. Joint Secretary (EE-I) said that the NER for upper primary is inconsistent with the dropout rate, OPEPA therefore should re-examine the issue. On being informed that the State Government has not released the State Share of Rs.32.79 crore, JS(EE-I) said that the balance State Share be immediately released to OPEPA. Secretary (EE&L) suggested that this matter should be immediately taken up with the State Chief Secretary through a letter from GOI also.

7. Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the participants and clarifications given by the State representatives, the following approvals were accorded by the Project Approval Board in regard to the Annual Work Plans and Budgets for 2004-2005 in respect of Orissa:-

- a) 55 primary and 1404 upper primary schools for SSA, and 333 primary schools for DPEP.
- b) TLE for 55 primary and 1404 UP schools,
- c) 110 teachers for primary, 2808 teachers for UP schools under SSA, and 2660 primary teachers for DPEP districts.
- d) Free text books for 25,49,153 primary & 8,55,410 upper primary school children under SSA, and 8,42,415 primary school children under DPEP.
- e) EGS & AIE centres for 6,76,896 children.
- f) Construction of 193 primary and 932 upper primary schools under SSA, and 13 primary schools under DPEP.
- g) Construction of 3123 Additional Classrooms.

8. PAB approved Rs. 71772.27 lakhs for implementation of SSA , NPEGEL and DPEP by OPEPA. Programme-wise breakup (fresh and spillover proposal) is given in the table below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Fresh	Spill over	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	SSA	46498.04	11100.71	57598.75
2.	NPEGEL	5928.49	77	6005.49
3.	DPEP	7178.02	990.01	8168.03
		Grand Total		71772.27

8.1 State summary and district-wise approved costing tables are given at Annexed. II.

9. It was directed that the State should also satisfy the following conditions:
- (a) The State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
 - (b) First instalment of the State share should also be released to the Society within one month of the release of Central share to the State.
 - (c) At least 50% of the teachers recruited should be female.
 - (d) Teachers appointed against posts created through SSA funds should be made accountable to the VEC for at least salary payment. The latter would monitor the attendance before releasing the salary.
 - (e) VECs or equivalent bodies should be constituted and accounts opened to incur expenditure under teachers grant, civil works, maintenance grants, school grants

and other such expenditure which has to be incurred only through these bodies as per SSA norms.

- (f) The State Government will maintain their level of investment in elementary education as in 1999-2000 and give the details of this to GOI before the release of second instalment. The contribution as State share for SSA will be over and above this investment.
- (g) The second instalment would only be released after the previous instalment of State share has been transferred to the State Implementation Society and substantial progress has been made in expenditure as far as money already released is concerned.
- (h) All appointments under the head of management cost should either be on deputation or on contract basis, with all persons being recruited having functional computer literacy.

The meeting ended with a thanks to Chairperson.

MINUTES OF THE 52ND MEETING OF THE PROJECT APPROVAL BOARD FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

The 52nd meeting of the Project Approval Board for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was held under the Chairmanship of Smt. Kumud Bansal, Secretary, Department of Elementary Education & Literacy on 2nd June 2004. A list of participants is annexed.

At the onset of the meeting Joint Secretary (Elementary Education - I) welcomed all the members and other participants. This was followed by a round of self-introduction by members / participants. Thereafter, with the permission of the Chairperson, the Agenda items were taken up for consideration.

Item No. 1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 45th meeting of PAB held on 13.8.2003.

- 1.1 The minutes were confirmed.
- 1.2 In the beginning the Secretary inquired about the percentage of state share for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The Education Secretary, West Bengal clarified that the State Government had given its full quota (Rs. 90 crs. Against central support of Rs. 290 crs.).

Item No. 2 Consideration of the District Elementary Education Plans of 20 districts of West Bengal.

- 2.1 Education Secretary, West Bengal made a presentation of the progress of SSA and DPEP in the state against the approvals / targets fixed by PAB for the year 2003-04. He said that the enrolment had substantially increased from 79% to 89%. The total number of working days in the state comes to around 190 days.
- 2.2 There was discussion about the number of teachers yet to be recruited in the state. The appraisal team had indicated the number to be 1,14,480. This had adversely affected the PTR and classroom practices in rural and interior areas. The Secretary (EE & L) urged the State to put in place the teachers sanctioned under SSA as soon as possible to improve the status of classroom teaching, PTR and the learning achievement of the children. JS (EE-I) mentioned that against the national average of 25%, in West Bengal 27% of class 5 children on average could score more than 60% whereas at the upper primary stage only 7% of the children could score more than 60% against the national average of 11%. This was pointed out as an important area of concern and the State was requested to work on teacher recruitment, improved classroom practices and better school management under SSA. The average PTR in DPEP Phase-I was found to be 53.13:1 and the same for Phase-II as 55.91:1. Similarly at the upper primary level the PTR was found to be 83:1.
- 2.3 Secretary (EE & L) also wanted to know what role the CRCs have been playing in the State to extend academic support to schools for their pedagogical improvement. The State reported that CRCs through their resource teachers and regular monitoring mechanism are trying to improve the children's attendance and quality issues in their concerned 10-15 schools.
- 2.4 About 13 lakh children are still out of school in West Bengal. The Secretary (EE & L) urged the State to take all possible measures to enroll all the out of school children this year itself. The State was asked to send a progress overview regarding the enrolment of out of school children by September. To the State's response that it would strive for at least two-third enrolment the Secretary said that the State should try for 100% enrolment. Emphasis was also given to ensure enrolment of urban deprived children.
- 2.5 On teacher training the State clarified that it had undertaken training programmes of 3-7 days. Secretary (EE & L) felt that the State must strive for regular in-service teacher training programmes as per the guidelines of SSA. She also expressed her dismay

- regarding the delay in developing teacher training modules in West Bengal. She urged the State to develop the modules and activate the teacher training programme in the State at an early date.
- 2.6 The state requested early & regular funds flows from the MHRD. It was also mentioned by the State Project Director that West Bengal received the salary of the upgraded SSKs for six months only and requested the PAB to reconsider the salary liability for the upgraded SSKs. After discussions it was agreed by the State to limit the support to SSKs and MKSs upto the sanctioned amount of 2003-04 with the committed liability taken as spillover for the year 2004-05.
- 2.7 Secretary (EE & L) asked the State for better coordination among the Education Department and Panchayats & Rural Development Department especially since the SSKs and MSKs are implemented by the latter. Secretary (EE & L) also desired that earmarking of funds for committed expenditure of SSKs and MSKs be done & funds released to them on priority by SPD, SSA, West Bengal.
- 2.8 Regarding the committed expenditure for SSKs and MSKs for the year 2003-04, it was agreed to take the amount for such expenditure into account and such amount that is due towards committed liability but not paid, as spilled-over amount. As per SSA norms, 2 Sahaykas per SSKs and MSKs are supported. Also it was agreed by the State that in case the expenditure for SSK is more than the outlay approved by PAB for the year 2003-04 the balance amount, wherever needed, would be borne by the State Government.
- 2.9 It was agreed that as SSKs are supported under SSA and DPEP and MSKs are supported only under SSA, funds distribution for their committed liability works out to as follows:-
- Against approved budget of Rs. 2610.57 lakhs under SSA for SSKs, Rs. 1688.41 lakhs is the total committed expenditure out of which Rs. 1092.48 lakhs has been paid and Rs. 595.93 lakhs is due to be paid which has been approved as spillover in this year's budget. Similarly under DPEP for the year 2003-04, Rs. 2264.03 lakhs was the approved budget for SSKs against which Rs. 1684.631 lakhs is committed expenditure out of which Rs. 1112.43 lakhs has been paid, however Rs. 572.20 lakhs which is still to be paid is being sanctioned as spill-over in this year's budget.
 - MSKs were supported for the first time under SSA in 2003-04 and Rs. 2223.78 lakhs was sanctioned for all the 20 districts towards the intervention. Out of this Rs. 42.40 lakhs is the actual expenditure. Total committed liability during the year was Rs. 323.625 lakhs. Hence Rs. 281.225 lakhs is being sanctioned as spillover amount to be utilized towards the unpaid committed liabilities of 2003-04.
- 2.10 The expenditure details for the year 2003-04 for SSA provided by the SPO, West Bengal needs to be stabilized. Hence it was decided that first instalment would be released based on the expenditure reported in the plans but before the second instalment is released, the SPO must provide the Utilisation Certification for the funds released in 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04.
- 2.11 The SPD sought separate SSA support for innovative activities in Darjeeling and Siligudi. However, the PAB clarified that both these towns were part of one revenue district and cannot be provided with separate funds of Rs. 15.00 lakhs as separate entities.
- 2.12 Based on the recommendations of the Appraisal Team, observations made by the members and clarifications given by the State SSA representatives, the following decisions were taken by the PAB with regard to the Annual Plan & Budget 2004-05 (SSA) for West Bengal:-
- Opening of 2122 new MSKs that would function equivalent to upper primary schools alongwith 6366 teachers were approved.

- Additional 2321 teachers for primary, 4098 teachers for upper primary and 1657 teachers for ILIP schools were approved. Salaries for teachers sanctioned & appointed in previous years, were also approved to be continued.
- School grant for 35814 primary schools and 13562 upper primary schools, teachers grant for 136296 primary teachers and 96647 upper primary teachers, School Maintenance Grant for 49469 Government schools and teacher training for 251824 teachers was approved.
- Under the category of Civil Works construction of 10992 additional classrooms, 3223 toilets / urinals, 3223 water facility and 120 building less primary schools etc. were approved.
- Approval for distribution of free text books was given for 3164401 primary children and 3049106 upper primary children.
- Funds for Innovative Activities like ECCE, girls education, SC/ST and computer education amounting to a total of Rs. 842.32 lakhs, IED (Rs. 1266.44 lakhs), Research and Evaluation (Rs. 543.35 lakhs), TLE (Rs. 1263.50 lakhs), Community Mobilisation (Rs. 111.24 lakhs) etc. was sanctioned.
- Based on the proposal of the State Government and the recommendations of the Appraisal Team thereon, a total plan of Rs. 856.9 crores were approved under SSA for the year 2004-05, including Rs. 824.97 crores as fresh proposals and Rs. 31.94 crores against spill over. Details are given in Annexure-I.
- Under NPEGEL Scheme Rs. 20.83 crores was approved for the year 2004-05. Details given in Annexure-II.
- Under DPEP-I the PAB approved AWP&B 2004-05 amounting to Rs. 70.94 crores for 5 districts and under DPEP-II Rs. 110.93 crores for 5 districts. Details given in Annexure-III.

2.13 The approval was subject to the State satisfying the following general conditions:-

- (a) State Government should give a written commitment for meeting its share of the SSA outlay.
- (b) First instalment of the State share should be released to the Society within one month of the release of Central share to the State.
- (c) At least 50% of teachers recruited should be female.
- (d) Teachers appointed against posts created through SSA funds should be made accountable to the VEC for at least salary payment. The latter would monitor teacher's attendance before releasing their salary.
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